

difficulty then is that if two hands are needed to manipulate the abdomen it is hard to hold the lens in place!

When specimens of such critical species are set it is always worth arranging the genitalia so that they can be examined without dissection (c.f. *MBGBI* 1: 130). Even if they have been determined it is good to allow further inspection without damage to the specimen. To achieve this it is again necessary to squeeze the abdomen (ventro-dorsally) to force out the genitalia. The valves should then be held open as wide as possible with a pair of pins, when dry the critical parts can then be examined with ease, using either lens or microscope.

NOTE: As yet there are no reliable criteria for separating *secalis* and *secalella* by means of external characters. Both species are illustrated by Skinner (1984) in *Colour identification guide to moths of the British Isles* (plate 38 figs. 1-5), but the text comment on p. 160 of the first printing: "May be separated from the usually slightly smaller *M. secalis*" is erroneous, as *secalis* is generally slightly larger than *secalella*. This error has been corrected in the second printing. Both species appear to be common in suitable habitats throughout the British Isles, and we await with interest further details of the biology of these two species. A recent paper (in Danish) by Michael Fibiger and Poul Svendsen (*Ent. Meddr.* 53:31-38) has half-tone illustrations of a short series of each species as well as photpgraphs of genitalia preparations. *Editor.*

CUCULLIA LYCHNITIS RAMB. (THE STRIPED LYCHNIS) IN WEST SUSSEX — On 26th August 1985 whilst walking a small section of The South Downs Way above Treyford, West Sussex, I came across in excess of twenty five full grown larvae of *C. lychnitis*. Ramb. — the striped lychnis — feeding on two adjacent plants of *Verbascum nigrum*.

Surprisingly C. Pratt (*A History of the Butterfly and Moths of Sussex*) gives only two records for Sussex since 1945 and the distribution map in J. Heath (*The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland: 10*) shows no records for this area despite a suggestion in the accompanying text that it should occur.

Larvae have also been found relatively commonly in the Winchester area of Hampshire this year, thus hopefully a revival in the fortunes of this insect is perhaps indicated. J. W. PHILLIPS, 16 Grove Road, Havant, Hants.